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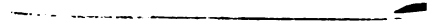
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1894

FAMILY RECORD OF
JAMES AND SARAH GIBBS



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Family Record

OF

JAMES AND SARAH GIBBS,

OF

BRISTOL, MASS.

CAMBRIDGE:

JOHN WILSON AND SON.

University Press.

1894.



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1894

FAMILY RECORD

OF

JAMES AND SARAH GIBBS OF BRISTOL, MASSACHUSETTS BAY.

PROBABLY ORIGINALLY FROM BRISTOL, ENGLAND.

JAMES GIBBS, born . . . died June 1, 1781.

SARAH GIBBS, " 1674 (?), " Oct. 5, 1756.

CHILDREN:

1. WILLIAM, born May 25, 1691, died Dec. 27, 1691, ?
2. GEORGE, " Aug. 18, 1695, " Aug. 6, 1755.
3. JOHN, " Oct. 25, 1699, " ? 1760-62?
4. ANN, " April 18, 1702, " ? m. Simon Tilley. ? Issue.
5. JANE, " Feb. 24, 1708, " Dec. 22, 1755, m. James Fowler. ? Issue.
6. JAMES, " Nov. 14, 1711, " Nov. 19, 1795.

GEORGE GIBBS, First.

{ GEORGE GIBBS, First, born Aug. 18, 1695, died Aug. 6, 1755.
{ HANNAH CLAGGETT, 1st wife.

CHILD:

HANNAH, born . . . 1782, m. Jabez Champlin, and left issue.

2d wife, Ruth Hart, born 1709, died June 4, 1784.

CHILDREN:

1. GEORGE, born May 19, 1785, died Oct. 11, 1808.
2. JAMES, " Sept. 11, 1786, " July 23, 1787.
3. SARAH, " Jan. 4, 1787, " Mar. 17, 1821, m. Oliver Champlin. Issue.
4. RUTH, " Oct. 25, 1741, " Dec. 25, 1741.
5. JOHN, " April 11, 1748, " June 16, 1765, unmarried.
6. MARY, " Nov. 25, 1744, " May 27, 1790, m. James Robinson. Issue.
7. ELIZA, " Sept. 21, 1746, " Nov., 1829, m. Thomas Greene. No issue.
8. RUTH, " Mar. 21, 1748, " Feb. 25, 1824, m. Sam. W. Whitehorne. Issue.

JOHN GIBBS, son of James and Sarah Gibbs, 1699-1760-1762.

1st wife, Sarah Jones.

CHILDREN:

1. ELIZABETH, born Oct. 12, 1730, died Jan. 1803, unmarried.
2. MARY, " Oct. 21, 1732, " . . . m. Samuel Gladding.
3. JOHN, " 1734, . . . 1734.

2d wife, Sarah Gladding.

CHILD:

JOHN, born Oct. 20, 1751 or 1752, died before 1772.

No record of the families of Ann, wife of Simon Tilley, or of Jane, wife of James Fowler.

JAMES GIBBS, SECOND, son of James and Sarah Gibbs, 1711-1795.

1st wife, Martha Giddings or Giddens.

CHILDREN:

1. SARAH, born . . . died . . . m. Haile Turner. Issue.
2. MARTHA, " . . . " . . . m. Josiah Finney. Issue.

2d wife, Mary Munro Ingraham.

CHILDREN:

1. JAMES, born Feb. 23, 1743, died July, 1760.
2. NATHANIEL, " 1749, " May 31, 1756.
3. RUTH, m. Job Thurston.
4. ANN, m. Timothy Pearce. Issue.
5. FRANCES, " Jan. 23, 1744, " . . .
6. HANNAH, " . . . " . . . m. Robinson Potter. Issue.

GEORGE GIBBS, SECOND.

1st wife, Susannah Scott.

CHILD:

GEORGE, born June 2, 1767, died June 13, 1767.

2d wife, Mary Channing.

CHILDREN:

1. SUSANNAH, born April 15, 1770, died Sept. 10, 1790, unmarried.
2. MARY, " May 3, 1772, " May 27, 1772.
3. MARY, " Sept. 23, 1773, " Oct. 19, 1813, m. T. W. More. No issue.

FAMILY RECORD OF JAMES AND SARAH GIBBS.

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4. GEORGE, born Jan. 7, 1776, died Aug. 6, 1833, m. Laura Wolcott.
5. RUTH, " Nov. 7, 1778, " Mar. 2, 1870, m. Wm. E. Channing.
Issue.
6. JOHN, " Oct. 2, 1781, " Aug. 26, 1797.
7. SARAH, " June 27, 1784, " June 17, 1866, unmarried.
8. ELIZABETH, " Dec. 10, 1786, " April 7, 1816, m. Luther Bradish. —
No issue.
9. WM. CHANNING, " Feb. 10, 1789, " Feb. 21, 1871, m. Mary Kane.
10. SUSANNAH, " Nov. 28, 1792, " Jan. 15, 1817, unmarried.

GEORGE GIBBS, THIRD.

Wife, Laura Wolcott.

CHILDREN:

1. GEORGE, born July 17, 1815, died April 9, 1873, m. Mary Kane Gibbs. No issue.
2. MARY, died in infancy.
3. ELIZABETH WOLCOTT, born July 8, 1819, died . . . m. Lucius Tuckerman. 6 sons, 3 daughters.
4. OLIVER WOLCOTT, " Feb. 21, 1822, " . . . m. Josephine Mauran. No issue.
5. ALFRED, " April 22, 1823, " Dec. 26, 1868, m. Peggy F. Blair. 2 sons.
6. LAURA WOLCOTT, " Aug. 12, 1827, " . . . m. T. M. d'Orémieux. 1 son, 1 daughter.
7. FRANCIS SARASON, " June 24, 1831, " Dec. 26, 1883, m. Eliza Gay Hosmer. 2 sons, 2 daughters.

WILLIAM CHANNING GIBBS.

Wife, Mary Kane.

CHILDREN:

1. GEORGE WILLIAM, born March 24, 1823, died . . . m. 1st, Martha Gardiner, 2d, Augusta Kane. No issue.
2. CORNELIUS VAN SCHELLUYNE, born May 7, 1824, m. Harriet Fobes. 2 sons, 2 daughters.
3. HELEN ELIZABETH, born July 8, 1825, died March 28, 1867, unmarried.
4. MARY KANE, " Jan. 19, 1827, " Dec. 18, 1876, m. George Gibbs, 4th. No issue.
5. FREDERICK AUGUSTUS, " Aug. 17, 1828, " June 25, 1893, m. Jane Rosalie West. 3 children, one only living.
6. CHARLES EDWARD, " July 20, 1830, " . . . m. Vernet McKoon. 6 daughters, 2 sons.

FAMILY RECORD OF JAMES AND SARAH GIBBS.

7. EUGENE BEAUHARNAIS, born May 29, 1882, died April 25, 1882, m. Mary Hoyt. No issue.
8. ALGERNON S., " Jan. 1, 1884, " Feb. 8, 1887.
9. EMILY, " Jan. 10, 1886, " Jan. 7, 1887.
10. THEODORE KANE, " Dec. 25, 1840, " . . . m. Virginia Barret.
No issue.
11. SARAH, " Jan. 6, 1842, " . . . m. Robert M. Thompson.
son. 1 child. d.

William Channing Gibbs was elected Governor of Rhode Island in 1821, and served acceptably for three terms.

NOTES.

ALL that is known of James Gibbs, First, and Sarah, his wife, is taken from the Bristol Records. From these it appears that in 1720 or 1721 James Gibbs, of Newport, removed to Bristol with his family, consisting of his wife, Sarah, and five children, — John, George, James, Ann, and Jane. It does not appear that he was possessed of any real estate in Bristol, or that he was ever admitted to the privileges of a freeman or voter. His name appears but twice on the records. Under date of Jan. 25, 1723, James Gibbs entered his cow to feed on the public commons. "Said cow is red, with small horns, and is marked with a swallow's tail slit in each ear. And whereas Captain Throope's cow has the same marks as Mr. Gibbs's, therefore, for distinction' sake, it is ordered that there be added thereto a half-penny on the under side of the right ear." In 1728 James Gibbs subscribed one-half cord of wood toward the support of the minister and schoolmaster. He died June 1, 1731. His age does not appear. In the record announcing his death his name is erroneously put down John.

James Gibbs's will is dated Dec. 19, 1729, and recorded Sept. 7, 1731. It reads as follows: —

I, James Gibbs, of Bristol, in the County of Bristol, in New England, being feeble in health though of a sound, disposing mind, for which God be thanked, and calling to mind the uncertainty of life and the certainty of death, and wishing to prepare for so great a change, do order this as my last Will and Testament. I commit my body to the earth, from which it came, to be buried in a decent and Christian-like manner, not doubting that I shall receive it again at the resurrection of the great day, through the merits of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

My worldly effects I give as follows: —

Item. I give to my beloved son George Gibbs five shillings.

Item. I give to my beloved son John Gibbs my cart and oxen and the mare which goes with the team, and the grey horse called Creag, and the yoke and chains and other tackling belonging to the cart, also the plough and pitchfork, and my best riding saddle and bridle, and also the oldest black cow.

To my beloved son James Gibbs I give five shillings, and desire my beloved wife to do for him further as she shall think proper and find herself able.

To my daughter Jane Fowler I give five shillings, having done for her already.

To my daughter Ann Tilley I give five shillings, having done for her already.

To my beloved wife, Sarah, I give all the rest and residue of my estate of every description to be at her disposal in life or death, desiring and willing her to pay my debts and legacies above mentioned.

And I appoint my said wife Executor of this my last Will and Testament.

There is no record of any inventory. As his wife was residuary legatee, it was unnecessary.

The maiden name of Sarah, wife of James Gibbs, First, is not known. James and Sarah probably came from Bristol, England, and not from Frome, in Somersetshire, as has been supposed. According to the researches of Columbus Smith, the name of Gibbs cannot be found in the church records at Frome. No headstones or monument of any kind containing their names or either of them exists at Bristol, R. I. According to the Town Clerk of Bristol, who copied the above records, they were probably buried on the Common, near where the State House now stands.

There were in Bristol several other persons of the name of Gibbs not known to be in any way related to James Gibbs. One was named Jabez, and another George. Jabez was the son of John Gibbs, of Little Compton, R. I. Nothing is known of George.

JAMES GIBBS, SECOND.

James Gibbs, Second, lived and died in Bristol. He followed the sea for many years in the capacity of ship-master. His first wife, Martha Giddens or Giddings, was born Nov. 16, 1712, and died May 5, 1740. She was buried in the eastern part of the burying-ground, east of the Common. Decent head and foot stones of slate denote the place of her sleeping dust. The following is the inscription upon the headstone : —

In memory of Martha
ye wife of James Gibbs
Died May 5th 1740
In the 28th year of her age
Oh death thou'st conquered me
By thy dart I'm slain
But Christ hath conquered thee
And I shall live again
Then hasten on the hour
I shall awake and sing
Oh grave where is thy power
Oh death where is thy sting.

Her mother, Grace Giddings, lived to the advanced age of ninety-seven, and died May 5, 1768.

James Gibbs's second wife was Mary Ingraham, widow of John Ingraham, and daughter of William and Mary Munro. By his second wife we have the record of the birth of three children, — Francis, James, and Nathaniel.

William Munro, the father of Mrs. Gibbs, was possessed of a large estate. He had three sons and two daughters. His will, dated April 16, 1746, contains the following : —

Item. I give and bequeath unto my children, viz., William, Bennett, and Nathaniel, Mary, the wife of James Gibbs, and Susannah, the wife of Jeremiah Wilson, their heirs and assigns forever, equally between them, a small lot of land lying in Bristol, bounded, etc.

Item. I give and bequeath to my two daughters, Mary Gibbs and Susanna Wilson, their heirs and assigns, ten acres of land lying in Bristol, bounded, etc.

Item. I give and bequeath to my daughter Mary Gibbs my negro woman named Louce, and also one cow, and to my daughter Susanna Wilson my negro girl Esther, and one third part of my indoor movables, and one cow. The reason why I do not give my daughter Mary as much is that I have done considerably for her before.

Then follows an instrument signed by James and Mary Gibbs, dated Nov. 14, 1746, in which they acknowledge having received the legacy above named, and exonerate the executors from any claim on the personal estate of her father. The bulk of his property he gave to his three sons, providing liberally, however, for the support of his widow.

Mary Munro, his widow, by her will, dated Aug. 14, 1788, has the following:—

Item. Whereas my late and only husband, William Munro, by his last Will and Testament gave and bequeathed the bulk of his property to his three sons, William, Bennett, and Nathaniel, and at the same time made ample provision for my support during life, and told me upon his death-bed that as he had made but small provisions for our two daughters, Mary and Susannah, he expected I would do for them what I could conveniently in my life-time, and leave them what I should die possessed of:

I do, therefore, without any maternal disaffection to my three sons above named, give and bequeath to my two daughters, Mary, the wife of James Gibbs, and Susannah, the wife of Jeremiah Wilson, the whole of what I shall die possessed of. Accordingly, I do, in the first place, give leave to my daughter Mary to choose and take to herself as much out of my personal estate as my wearing apparel of every kind soever shall be appraised at as per inventory may appear. And to my daughter Susannah my said wearing apparel. I give, also, two hundred and twenty-five pounds, old tenor, being what I sold a negro boy for.

Item. All the remainder of my estate, whether household stuff, bonds, notes, book debts, or whatsoever, I give to be equally divided between my two daughters, Mary and Susannah, share and share alike. And I appoint my son, Nathaniel Munro, and my son-in-law, James Gibbs, Executors of this my last Will and Testament.

In 1755 James Gibbs purchased of John Busbee a dwelling-house and lot of land on Hope Street, in Bristol. April 18, of the same year, James Gibbs, commander of the sloop "Dolphin," was chosen administrator on the estate of Peter Provost, a sailor who died on board the said vessel on her passage from Surinam to Bristol, said Gibbs being the principal creditor. The amount of inventory taken was £13 19s. 7d. The same year he entered his cows to be fed on the commons on his own right and the right of Bennett Munro. In 1746 he commanded the sloop "Little," on board of which were shipped twelve horses for Surinam. In 1747 he took the "oath of bribery and corruption," and was admitted a freeman. In 1749 he was chosen one of the town assessors of accounts. From 1749 to 1761 he was drawn eleven different times to serve in the jury-box.

At the July term of the Superior Court of Common Pleas, 1748, he brought an action of trespass against Simon Newton. The jury rendered a verdict in his favor for £100 damages.

In 1756 Nathaniel Munro and William Munro conveyed to him their interest in the small lot of land given to them and their two sisters in the will of their father. In 1757 he purchased a piece of land of Jonathan Peck, Beach flats. In 1761 he conveyed to Jeremiah Dimon the estate which he purchased of John Busbee in 1738. This was in the south part of the town, known by the name of the Nooning Estate.

July 1, 1762, at a meeting of the Town Council, it was ordered that James Gibbs be cited to appear at the next meeting to render an account of his administration of the estate of Mary Munro.

At the July term of the Superior Court Jeremiah Ingraham recovered a judgment against him by default for £70 14s.

In 1762 he conveyed to Haile Turner, his son-in-law, the estate on Hope Street which he inherited in part from his father-in-law, and purchased of his two brothers-in-law in 1756. Haile Turner occupied it as a public house for many years, and it was quite celebrated as the Golden Ball Inn. He afterward conveyed this estate to Jonathan Dimon, and the house is still occupied by his heirs. In 1768 he conveyed the estate which he purchased from Jonathan Peck in 1757 to his son-in-law Josiah Finney. This is the present Market Wharf estate.

At the Superior Court holden in July of the same year, two judgments were rendered against him by default, one in favor of John Russell and Andrew Thompson, of Plymouth, for £123 3s.; the other in favor of Jonathan Woodbury, of Bristol, for £213 18s. The same year he mortgaged his estate to Nathaniel Munro for £1,800.

In 1764 he conveyed his estate, the half of the ten-acre lot which he inherited from his father-in-law, to John Usher. This estate is on Wood Street, which is called Goree, and has been inhabited exclusively by colored people for many years. Thus he disposed of all his real estate, and his name does not appear again on record.

Captain Gibbs at one time was possessed of a handsome estate, but finally became involved and died poor. For several years previous to his death he lived in the family of his son-in-law, Josiah Finney, and died under his roof at a very advanced age.

His wife followed him to the grave. Near the grave of his first wife are several rough stones, indications of graves.

His daughter Sarah, by his first wife, married Haile Turner. Their son, William Turner, resided in Warren, R. I. He was a sea-captain.

His son, Thomas G. Turner, was Governor of Rhode Island. Mrs. Haile Turner, after her husband's death, married Cromwell Childs; of this marriage there was no issue.

Martha Gibbs married Josiah Finney, June 21, 1661. They had nine children, two sons and seven daughters; namely, Thomas, George, Abby, Martha, Charlotte, Sally, Ann, Susan, and Ruth. The three first named died in the vigor of youth, as will appear from the following inscription copied from a monument erected to their memory:—

FAMILY RECORD OF JAMES AND SARAH GIBBS.

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In memory of three children of Josiah Finney and Martha his wife

THOMAS GIBBS

ABBY

GEORGE

Died at sea
Oct. 14, 1787
Aged 17

Died Oct. 16, 1776
Aged 17

Died at sea,
May 9, 1789
Aged 21

Insatiate archer! could not one suffice?
Thy shaft flew thrice
And thrice our peace was slain.

Martha Finney married John Fales. She died April 23, 1843, aged 81. She left three children. Several had preceded her to eternity.

Sally married Hezekiah Usher. Died — leaving one child. Charlotte married William DeWolf, of Bristol. Died May 15, 1829, aged 65. She left four children. Anne died unmarried Dec. 16, 1838, aged 63. Susan married Oliver Fitch. She died Jan. 8, 1848, leaving no children. Ruth married Elkanah French; they have five children.

Mr. Finney and his wife were both esteemed and respected for their amiable qualities of heart and mind. He was for many years extensively engaged in mercantile business, and also sustained many offices of trust and honor under the Government, the State, and the town. He died July 23, 1804, aged 76. His wife died in 1823, aged 85.

James, son of James Gibbs, Second, and Mary his wife, was born Feb. 23, 1743, and was lost at sea in July, 1760, aged 17.

Ann, daughter of James Gibbs, Second, and Mary Munro Ingraham, married Timothy Pearce or Pierce. They had at least one child, a daughter, who married a man named Durfee, and kept for many years a well-known tavern in South Portsmouth, R. I., adjoining the estate known as Oaklands. After Mr. Durfee's death his widow continued to keep the tavern for some time.

They had three children, Isaac, Lawrence, and Ruth. Isaac Durfee died a few years since in South Portsmouth. Lawrence and Ruth are still living; the latter never married.

Frances was born Jan. 23, 1744. Nathaniel was born in 1749, and was drowned May 31, 1756. On the left-hand side of Captain Gibbs's first wife's grave is a small stone with the inscription:—

In memory of Nathaniel ye son of James and Mary Gibbs died May 31 1756 aged 7 years.

Frances probably died young. But it appears that a Frances Gibbs married Samuel West. Hannah married Robinson Potter. The date of her birth is not known. They had two daughters:—

1. Frances Gibbs Potter, who married Dr. Keith of Newport. Issue,—one son, James Gibbs Keith.

2. Elizabeth Robinson Potter, married Dr. T. C. Dunn of Newport. Children:—

1. Robinson Potter Dunn, married Mary, daughter of Alfred Dwight Foster.
2. Elizabeth, died unmarried.
3. Thomas Dunn, married Catherine Hunter. Issue.
4. T. C. Dunn, married Charlotte De Witt.
5. Hannah, married T. Bennett.

This is all that is known of the family of James Gibbs, Second, mariner.

Samuel Whitehorne and Ruth Gibbs were married Dec. 19, 1771. Their children were:

1. John Gibbs, born Aug. 25, 1772; married Harriet Malbone. No children. He died in 1855.
2. Samuel, born Oct. 27, 1773; died June 15, 1777.
3. Abigail, born June 19, 1775; died June 8, 1777.
4. George Gibbs, born Dec. 10, 1776; died July 22, 1778.
5. Samuel Whitehorne, born May 7, 1779; married Elizabeth Rathbone Aug. 24, 1802; died March 22, 1844.
6. Sarah, born Dec. 18, 1781; died ———
7. Ruth, born May 9, 1784; died ———
8. George Gibbs, born April 16, 1786; married Seraphine Peters. Issue.
9. Abigail, born Jan. 27, 1794; died ———, 1875.
10. Eliza, born Feb. 24, 1795; married Thomas Jones; died Dec. 12, 1878.

The children of Samuel and Elizabeth Whitehorne were, —

1. Eliza Ann, born Dec. 29, 1803; married William Ennis April 9, 1832.
2. Caroline, born Dec. 10, 1805; died Sept. 23, 1821.
3. Mary Rathbone, born Jan. 27, 1809; married Commodore Robert Handy June 27, 1837.
4. Harriet, born Nov. 1, 1812; married Professor Bartlett Feb. 4, 1830. Issue.
5. Ellen Maria, born May 16, 1814; died Nov. 1, 1815.
6. Samuel, born Jan. 29, 1815; married Mary E. Geer, at Fort Snelling, Sept. 4, 1839; died Nov. 2, 1840, at Fort Winnebago, Wis.
7. Ellen Maria, born Dec. 31, 1817; died Dec. 23, 1824.
8. Louisa Rathbone, born Oct. 16, 1819; died Nov. 2, 1819.

George Gibbs Whitehorne left one son, George.

JOHN GIBBS, FIRST.

John Gibbs, son of James Gibbs, First, according to the Bristol Records, was a mariner. According to the same record, he married, first, Sarah Jones, by whom he had three children:

Elizabeth, born Oct. 21, 1730.

Of her nothing further appears. In the records of Trinity Church, Newport, it is stated that Elizabeth Gibbs died in 1803, at the age of ninety-three. If the nine is a mistake for seven, this may be Elizabeth, daughter of John, as the dates of birth and death would then correspond.

Mary, born Feb. 21, 1732; married Samuel Gladding Sept. 9, 1751.

John, born ———, 1734, and died the same year.

The children of Mary and Samuel Gladding were: —

Samuel, born April 28, 1752.

Nathaniel, born ———, 1754.

George, born April 9, 1756.

Mary, born Sept. 2, 1758.

John, born June 28, 1761.

John Gibbs's second wife was Sarah Gladding. They were married April 29, 1751, five years after the death of his first wife. Issue, — John, born Feb. 20, 1751, or 1752; died before 1772. There is but little mention of John Gibbs in the Bristol Records. Nov. 2, 1748, he was chosen administrator on the estate of his father-in-law, John Jones. It appears that in the settlement of the estate he had a long litigation with John Groton, and recovered judgment against him for a large amount. He was twice drawn to serve as juror, — Sept. 2, 1755, and Dec. 29, 1756. He was a voter on the estate of his wife. There is some reason for believing that John Gibbs had also a daughter named Frances.

The following is also from the Bristol Records: —

At a meeting of the Parish of St. Michael's Church, Dec. 15, 1780, voted, "That Jeremiah Ingraham and John Gibbs and Isaac Ingraham be discharged from their bond of fifty pounds given to Messrs. Lawton & Bosworth, for the use of the church, provided they pay to the present Church Wardens one half of the charges that have accrued by breaking the bell of said church."

Voted, likewise, that Mr. John Gibbs be paid five pounds this year, provided he rings the bell every Lord's day according to custom and at nine of the clock every evening according to his agreement.

At a meeting of the Parish March 26, 1783, voted, "That Captain Lawton agree with Mr. John Gibbs to ring the bell at the same price he did last year."

He removed to Newport in 1760, and died there about 1762. His widow, Sarah, with her two brothers, Timothy Gladding and Benjamin Gladding, of Providence, and her son, John Gladding, of Newport, on Jan. 11, 1772, conveyed to John Glover an estate in Bristol, north of the town bridge.

Nothing is known of the descendants, if any, of Simon Tilley, who married Ann Gibbs, daughter of James, First, or of James Fowler, who married Jane Gibbs, daughter of James, First.

GEORGE GIBBS, FIRST.

Very little is known of him. He was a baker by trade, and lived in the Gibbs house, as believed, afterwards occupied by his son, George Gibbs, Second, and once owned by Governor Coddington. The house was in Thames Street, on the corner of Sherman's wharf, where Covell's store now stands.

George Gibbs, First, and his wife, with one or two children, are buried in the old town burial-ground in Newport. Two upright slate stones mark the graves. The inscriptions are: —

In memory of Mr. George Gibbs, who died Aug. 6, 1755, in the 60th year of his age.

In memory of Mrs. Ruth Gibbs, the widow of Mr. George Gibbs, who departed this life June 4, 1784, in the 76th year of her age.

The stones were put in order again by Miss Sarah Gibbs, and the inscriptions renewed. The inscriptions on two small stones are illegible.

Ruth Hart was granddaughter of Isaac and Elizabeth George, of Newport. Isaac George came from Frome, in Somersetshire, England. On a silver tankard, now in the possession of George Gibbs, Fifth (son of Francis S. and Eliza Hosmer Gibbs), are the initials "I. and E. G." This was formerly the property of Miss Sarah Gibbs. The tradition that the family came from Frome probably arose from the fact that Isaac and Elizabeth George came from that place. The name of George is common at Frome at this day. The connection with the George family is proved by the following extract from the "Rhode Island Historical Magazine."

HART vs. GIBBS.

Inferior Court, Nov., 1733. Complaint of Mary Hart, widow; George Gibbs, baker, and Ruth, his wife, "*lately whose sole name was Ruth Hart*," all of Newport, against John George, rug weaver, of Newport; "in action of trespass for withholding from plaintiffs the possession of piece of land containing about 20 acres, in Newport." Said land was in possession of Isaac George during his lifetime, which he left to his "da. Mary Hart and granddaughter Ruth Hart (wife of Geo. Gibbs)." Isaac George died about 1732.

According to family tradition, George Gibbs, First, learned his trade with Caleb Claggett, of Bristol, whose daughter Hannah was his first wife. Their only child, Hannah, married Jabez Champlin, of Newport, and had two children, — a boy named George Gibbs Champlin, and a daughter Hannah, who married, first, Stephen Baudin. The marriage is noted in the Trinity Church Records as having taken place Aug. 16, 1772. She afterwards married Benjamin Pierce, Sept. 28, 1775, as noted in Trinity Church Records. See Rhode Island Historical Magazine, vol. vi. p. 202. It is not known whether she had children by either marriage.

GEORGE GIBBS, SECOND.

George Gibbs, Second, may be regarded as the founder of the family. He learned his father's trade, but subsequently became a flour-merchant, and was at one time in partnership with Captain Joseph Anthony, of Philadelphia. In 1792 he went into partnership with Walter Channing, his brother-in-law. The terms of the partnership are here given :

Articles of agreement entered into the sixteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two, between George Gibbs, of Newport, in the State of Rhode Island, merchant, on the one part, and Walter Channing, of said Newport, merchant, on the other part.

The said George Gibbs and Walter Channing have mutually agreed, and do by these presents, hereby, for themselves severally, and their several executors and administrators, covenant and agree to and with each other, to become partners in trade, under the firm of Gibbs and Channing, the said

George Gibbs in three quarter parts, and the said Walter Channing in one quarter part, of the trade and business, and the profits and losses which may arise therefrom.

And the said George Gibbs doth agree with the said Walter Channing to turn the whole of his stock in trade to the said company of Gibbs and Channing, to be by them used and employed in trade and business; and for the amount of said stock, agreeably to an inventory thereof, the said George Gibbs shall be credited on the books of said Gibbs and Channing.

And it is further agreed, that the said partnership shall commence on the aforesaid sixteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two, and continue until the same shall be dissolved, by mutual consent, or at the request or death of either of the said partners; and at the dissolution of the aforesaid partnership, a just estimate shall be made of the whole of the stock of the said company of Gibbs and Channing; and the amount of the stock supplied the company, as aforesaid, by the said George Gibbs, shall be paid out of the stock of the said company of Gibbs and Channing; shall be divided and delivered or paid: three quarters part thereof to the said George Gibbs, and one quarter part thereof to the said Walter Channing, or to their several executors or administrators in such manner as shall be reciprocal and just.

And it is further agreed, that all vessels, merchandise, debts, dues, and demands, all lands, wharves, and buildings, which the parties aforesaid, have or shall purchase for the amount of said partnership, and all wharves and buildings which they have or shall erect, all rights or shares, in the public funds, banks, bridges, manufactures, and all other property of whatever nature or kind soever, to them belonging or due at the dissolution of the aforesaid partnership, shall be considered the stock of the said Gibbs and Channing, and estimated as aforementioned; and on an adjustment of the said partnership, in the manner as is herein specified, the said George Gibbs and Walter Channing do severally agree for themselves and their several executors and administrators, to execute and deliver to each other, respectively, all deeds, releases, and discharges that shall or may be necessary to carry into full and complete effect the adjustment that shall be made of the partnership as aforesaid.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto signed our names, and affixed our seals the day and year before written.

Signed, sealed, and delivered in presence of

GEO. CHAMPLIN.

JAM. ROBINSON.

GEORGE GIBBS.

SEAL.

WALTER CHANNING.

SEAL.

The business of the firm was partly with China, partly with St. Petersburg, and partly with the Levant. The firm had at one time about seventy-five vessels. Mr. Gibbs died in 1808. The estimation in which he was held will appear from the following extract from the funeral sermon preached by Rev. Mr. Dehon:—

Endowed naturally with vigorous powers of mind and body, blessed by Providence with a very ample fortune, and animated by a spirit which viewed nothing with indifference that concerned the happiness or improvement of his country or man, Mr. Gibbs was eminently qualified to rank among those rare characters the value of whose lives is felt while they are here, and whose deaths cause a void in society which the ordinary course of events does not easily fill. Do we contemplate him as a citizen? Who was more sensible of his country's honor, or felt more tenderly her wrongs? The real interests of his town, his State and nation, he considered as his own interests; and could the plain wishes of his heart be realized, national freedom, increased prosperity, pure religion, tranquillity, and

honor would long be their happy allotment. Do we contemplate him in his mercantile character? By enterprise, integrity, candor, and punctuality, he rendered himself known and respectable throughout his own country, in Europe, and in the Indies; and with a portion of that benevolence which actuates the Deity and emanates from him, it was his great delight to convert his commercial projects into occasions of benefiting as many fellow-beings as it was practicable to employ in the accomplishment of them. Do we contemplate him in his state of distinguished affluence? He was indeed the almoner of God. Never was a man in a less degree rich for himself. Pride in his wealth he had none; and he was chiefly happy in it because it enabled him to render his family and connections happy, to benefit the community, to employ the honest and industrious poor, and to wipe away the tear from the widow's and the orphan's cheek. Do we remember him in the connection by which he was related to us, my brethren, as a member of this society? Alas, what a pillar of our church has God taken away! A modest yet firm believer in her principles, a sincere admirer of her services, a friend and liberal benefactor to her ministers, he has left her to regret that she shall no more be benefited by him, save in the influence which the example of his benevolence in life and his faith and resignation in death should have upon each of her sons so long as the remembrance of them remains. Shall we approach tenderly the domestic scene, and view him in those relations in which the true characters of men generally appear? Here he was an ornament to his nature. His cheerful and affectionate disposition, his honest, unsuspicious, benevolent mind, qualified him to be a pattern of all that is lovely in domestic life. Oft has affection admired in him, and long will memory deplore, the fond and faithful husband the tender and indulgent father, the kind brother, the generous master, and the unwearied friend.

The following notice appeared in the "Newport Mercury," Oct. 15, 1803:—

DIED.—On Tuesday morning, the 11th instant, greatly and deservedly lamented, after a most distressing illness, in the 69th year of his age, Mr. George Gibbs, of this town, merchant.

Of a lively and cheerful disposition, active and enterprising, he rose superior to every obstacle incident to a very extensive, complicated scene of business, pursued his well-digested plans of commerce with indefatigable and persevering industry, and soon established a reputation in America, in Europe, and in the Indies, on the most honorable and respectable basis. That he was the main pillar in the mercantile line at Newport, no one, it is presumed, will deny. That he always stood foremost to support the cause of religion and the interest of the Episcopal Church, of which, free from bigotry and superstition, he was a worthy and valuable member, his many liberal contributions to that society bear ample testimony.

Having acquired a very handsome and independent fortune, his gratitude to the Supreme Author of all good was manifested by his endeavors to imitate the example of the divine original, in acts of benevolence and kindness. The many strangers continually passing through Newport experienced his attention and hospitality. To promote the welfare and prosperity of his native town and State, to employ the industrious poor, to feed the hungry, and to relieve the sufferings of the wretched and miserable, were not the least pleasing employments of his life. During his sickness, when his bodily pains were not so severe and excruciating as to deprive him of reflection, he appeared composed and serene; adjusted several weighty worldly matters; thanked God that his life had been continued so long in the world, to be useful to his family and friends; expressed his firm reliance on the merits of his Saviour, and with a fortitude and resignation which the consciousness of a well-spent life can alone inspire, beheld his approaching dissolution without terror or dismay.

In short, if ever the inhabitants of Newport had reason to lament a loss, and to drop a tear over the remains of a departed fellow-citizen, they will acknowledge, with mingled emotions of affliction

and gratitude, that no man ever merited more from them than Mr. Gibbs. His remains were on Thursday carried into Trinity Church, where the appropriate service was performed by the Rev. Mr. Dehon; and afterwards were deposited in the burial yard of the church in the presence of a great concourse of people; all deeply lamenting the departure of their beloved fellow-citizen, and solemn with sorrow "that they should see his face no more."

After the winding up of the firm, Mrs. Gibbs and her brother Walter Channing removed to Boston, where Mrs. Gibbs died in 1824. George Gibbs, Second, left a very large estate. After his death his widow invested largely in real estate in Newport. She purchased the Easton's Point farm, and the Nicholas Easton farm west of the first beach. The Easton's Point farm was purchased from Jonathan Easton Oct. 17, 1809, and is described as containing 135 acres. The price paid was \$22,000. The farm in Newport was purchased, Oct. 8, 1808, from Jacob Smith for \$21,000, and embraced about 100 acres. Mrs. Gibbs afterward purchased several small parcels of land adjoining the land purchased from Smith. Jan. 1, 1814, she bought a plot containing $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres 5 rods from Davis Simmons, for \$1,100. Jan. 1, 1814, she also purchased from Simmons $8\frac{1}{2}$ acres 35 rods for \$750. March 22, 1826, she purchased from John Easton a plot containing about 14 acres for \$3,850. May 23, 1814, she purchased from Edward Hall, for \$1,241.25, $5\frac{1}{2}$ acres 7 rods.

By a declaration of trust dated July 1, 1809, Mary Gibbs shows that she held the 100-acre farm in trust for her daughter Susannah, as part of her father's estate so invested for said Susannah.

The estate or farm in South Portsmouth was purchased in 1796, by George Gibbs and Walter Channing, from John and Lydia Faxon for \$2,600. The deed was made in their names as tenants in common. They purchased several small parcels of land in Portsmouth about that time, but it is difficult to locate these now.

The following are extracts from the will of George Gibbs, Second, dated Oct. 2, 1808:—

Item. After payment of my debts I leave to my beloved wife, Mary Gibbs, one third of my personal estate forever, and the use of one third of my real estate during her natural life.

Item. I give to my sister Sarah Champlin during her natural life and the natural life of her daughter Ruth the sum of three hundred Spanish milled dollars per annum, to be paid in quarterly payments; but in case of either her death or the death of her said daughter, then only two hundred Spanish milled dollars per annum, to be paid in quarterly payments as aforesaid to the survivor. And I do order that my said sister and her daughter be allowed during their natural life, or the natural life of either of them, the chambers they now occupy, and that they or either of them who shall survive be furnished with firewood for their use, and that my sister have the privilege of sending adventures in the vessels of my house, as heretofore.

And I give to my sister Elizabeth Greene during her natural life the rent of the house which belonged to her late husband. And I do order that her board should be paid during her natural life, that she may live in a decent manner.

All the rest of his estate, real and personal, is divided among his surviving children, share and share alike.

The next item is as follows:—

Item. My mind and will is that my partner in trade, Walter Channing, shall continue the establishment of our house of trade and business under the firm of Gibbs and Channing, and continue to make, use, and improve the real estates purchased by and belonging to said Gibbs and Channing for the use and benefit of said firm, and to employ the moneys, vessels, goods, and chattels now belonging to said Gibbs and Channing in trade and business on the account, for the benefit, and at the risk of said firm, as heretofore and now carried on, so long as it shall be agreed to be continued by my beloved wife and my children who shall be of age at the time of my decease, on the one part, and the said Walter Channing on the other part, and no longer. And to this end I order and direct that no division or distribution of my estate in said firm be made until the expiration of such agreement.

The executors were Mary Gibbs, Walter Channing, George Champlin, Caleb Gardner, and James Robinson, of Newport, John T. Champlin, of New York, and Jeremiah Forres Jenkins, of Providence; but in a codicil he appoints his son George Gibbs also as executor.

The will was executed Oct. 2, 1803; the codicil Oct. 4, 1803.

He died Oct. 11, 1803, and was buried in Trinity Churchyard. The inscription on his tomb reads as follows:—

Here are deposited the Remains
of
GEORGE GIBBS
Who departed this Life
On the 11th October 1803
Aged 68 years
Persevering in industry
Judicious in enterprise
Faithful in engagement
He acquired universal Confidence
and Respect as a Merchant
Affectionate benevolent and public-spirited
his Life
was a course of extensive usefulness
which he finished
in Charity with all men.

The grave of Mr. Gibbs's first wife, Susannah Scott, and of her infant, George Gibbs, lies in the southeast corner of the churchyard, near that of her husband. By its side are the tombs of Susannah, daughter of George and Mary Channing Gibbs, and of their son John, who was accidentally killed by the discharge of his gun.

The inscription on the monument in St. Mary's Church, South Portsmouth, R. I., reads as follows:—

SACRED
to the memory of
GEORGE GIBBS,
born 19. May, 1735, O. S., died 11. Oct. 1803.
An eminent Merchant,
honored for his public spirit and uprightness,
given to hospitality and good works.
A faithful and munificent son of the Church,
and most tender and beloved in domestic life.

Also of
MARY CHANNING GIBBS,
born 18. October, 1747, O. S., died 26. December, 1824.
Her heart overflowed with all kind and holy affections.
The graces of her character, the refinement of her mind,
the dignity of her manners,
her serene and benignant countenance,
her tones and deeds of love,
no time can erase from the memory
of her grateful children.

The inscriptions were written by Dr. Channing.

St. Mary's Church, in South Portsmouth, was founded and endowed by Miss Sarah Gibbs, daughter of George Gibbs, Second. The corner-stone was laid Sept. 2, 1847.

GEORGE GIBBS, THIRD,

eldest son of George Gibbs, Second, devoted his life to horticulture and to science, especially to mineralogy. In early life he was sent as supercargo of one of the ships of Gibbs and Channing to China, and it was his father's wish that his son should succeed him in his business. The attractions of a life of cultivated leisure were, however, too strong. After some years of study in Europe, he returned with a very fine collection of minerals derived from the purchase of two noted European cabinets, — those, namely, of Gigot d'Orey and of Count Gregoire de Razamowsky, — the two containing about ten thousand specimens. With other collections the number of specimens brought to this country amounted to about twenty thousand. Colonel Gibbs offered to loan this collection to Yale College, provided that rooms should be fitted up for its reception. The offer was accepted by the authorities of the College, and the collection was thrown open in 1810, 1811, and 1812. In 1825 the collection was purchased for the College. Colonel Gibbs purchased in 1812 a large estate on Long Island, near what was then called Hallett's Cove, and is now known as Astoria. Here he devoted himself with great ardor and success to horticulture, and especially to the introduction and testing of new varieties of fruit. Meantime he kept up his scientific studies, accumulated a noble library, and exercised an abounding hospitality. He for many years offered at Yale prizes for superior attainment in mineralogy and for services rendered to science by useful discoveries and observations, and first suggested to Professor

Silliman the publication of the well-known "American Journal of Science." Two of his sons inherited his scientific tastes.

The estate on Long Island was known as "Sunswick." After the death of Colonel Gibbs it was sold, and in 1835 the family removed to New York.

Laura Wolcott, wife of George Gibbs, Third, was born April 10, 1794, and died December 10, 1870. She was the daughter of Oliver Wolcott (Second), Secretary of the Treasury of the United States during parts of the administrations of Washington and Adams and afterwards Governor of Connecticut, and Elizabeth Stoughton his wife.

GEORGE GIBBS, FOURTH,

eldest son of George Gibbs, Third, was born at Sunswick, L. I. He was educated at the famous Round Hill School at Northampton, Mass., then under the charge of Mr. George Bancroft, the historian, and Mr. Joseph S. Cogswell, afterwards librarian of the Astor Library. Leaving school he made a voyage to Europe, and on his return began the study of law at the Law School of Harvard University. He afterwards opened an office in New York, but his tastes led him in other directions. He wrote, in his leisure hours, "Memoirs of the Administrations of Washington and Adams," edited from the papers of Oliver Wolcott, Secretary of the Treasury. The work appeared in 1846. Meantime he took a very active interest in the New York Historical Society, of which he was librarian from 1842 to 1848. In 1848 he accompanied the Rifle Regiment across the continent, and finally settled in what was then Washington Territory. Here he was attached to the United States Boundary Commission as geologist, after holding for four years the position of Collector of the Port of Astoria during the presidency of Mr. Fillmore. In 1857 he was appointed to the Northwest Boundary Commission. During his residence in the Northwest he found time to accumulate a great mass of information about the Indian languages, manners, and customs, as well as the reports on geology which formed part of his official duties. This large collection of legends and papers on Indian languages is now in the possession of the Smithsonian Institution. In 1860 he returned to New York, but afterwards removed to Washington, and was Secretary of the Hudson's Bay Claims Commission. In 1871 he married his cousin, Mary Kane Gibbs, and took up his residence in New Haven, where he died in 1873.

ALFRED GIBBS,

third son of George Gibbs, Third, was educated at White Plains, N. Y., and afterwards passed a year or two at Dartmouth College. He entered West Point July 1, 1842, and graduated July 1, 1846, when he was appointed Brevet Second Lieutenant Mounted Rifles. He served in the war with Mexico, 1846-1848. He was engaged in the siege of Vera Cruz and in the battles of Cerro Gordo, Contreras, Churubusco, Chapultepec, and the City of Mexico. He was breveted First Lieutenant April 18, 1847, for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battle of Cerro Gordo April 18, 1847, and Captain, Sept. 13, 1847, for gallant conduct at Garita de Belem, City of Mexico. After the Mexican war he was chiefly sta-

tioned in New Mexico, and was severely wounded in a campaign against the Apaches. July 8, 1861, he was captured by Texas insurgents, and paroled until exchanged Aug. 27, 1862. He served during the War of Secession from 1862 to 1866 as Colonel of the One Hundred and Thirtieth New York Volunteers and First New York Dragoons, and took part in a great number of engagements. He was breveted Major June 11, 1864, for gallant and meritorious services at Trevillian Station, Va., and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Sept. 19, 1864, for gallant and meritorious services at the battle of Winchester, Va. He received subsequently four more brevets for conduct and services, and became in succession Brigadier-General of Volunteers, Brevet Colonel U. S. A., Brevet Brigadier-General U. S. A., Brevet Major-General U. S. Volunteers, and Brevet Major-General U. S. A., March 13, 1865. After the war he served chiefly on the frontier, and died at Fort Leavenworth, Dec. 26, 1868.

EXTRACTS FROM THE NEWPORT (TRINITY) CHURCH RECORDS.

Susannah Gibbs baptized May 8, 1770.

Mary Gibbs " May 16, 1772.

Mary Gibbs " Sept. 21, 1774.

George Gibbs " Sept. 29, 1776.

Ruth Gibbs " April 22, 1779.

March 17, 1789. John, Sarah, Elizabeth, and William Channing Gibbs, children of George and Mary Channing Gibbs, baptized.

April 8, 1796. Ruth Gibbs Whitehorne (relict of Samuel W.) and her children, Sarah and Elizabeth, baptized.

June 25, 1824. Baptized George William Gibbs, son of William C. Gibbs, born at Albany, N. Y., March 24, 1823; also, Cornelius Van Schelluyne Gibbs, son of the same, born at Newport May 7, 1824.

MARRIAGES.

1788. Oct. 19. George Gibbs to Ruth Hart.

1750. Aug. 26. Jabez Champlin to Hannah Gibbs.

1759. July 20. Oliver Champlin to Sarah Gibbs.

1766. Aug. 10. Job Thurston to Mary Gibbs.

1766. Dec. 28. James Robinson to Mary Gibbs.

1766. ———. George Gibbs, Second, to Susannah Scott.

1767. Aug. 3. Thomas Green to Elizabeth Gibbs.

1768. Nov. 19. George Gibbs to Mary Channing.

1771. Sept. 29. Timothy Pierce to Ann Gibbs.

1771. Dec. 19. Samuel Whitehorne to Ruth Gibbs.

1772. Aug. 16. Stephen Bardin to Hannah Champlin.

1811. ———. Thomas William More (of England) to Mary Gibbs.

1840. Mar. 28. James Gibbs, son of John Melville and Frances Gibbs Keith.

BURIALS.

1813. Oct. 19. Mary, wife of Thomas William More, and daughter of George Gibbs, Second.
 1817. Jan. 17. Susanna Gibbs, aged 25 years, daughter of George Gibbs, Second.
 1822. Sept. —. George Gibbs Channing, infant son of William E. and Ruth Channing.
 1824. Dec. 29. Mary (Channing), widow of George Gibbs, Second, aged 77.
 1837. Feb. 11. Algernon S. Gibbs, aged 8 years, } children of William C. Gibbs.
 " Dec. 1. Emily Gibbs, aged 18 months, }

Several other persons named Gibbs resided in Newport between 1700 and 1800. In the Trinity Church Records we find the name of William Gibbs as Warden in 1709, and as one of the vestry up to 1725. Could he have been a brother of James Gibbs, First? Probably he was not related to the Bristol family. We also find the following baptismal record:—

Anne Gibbs,
 John Jones Gibbs, } son and daughters of James Gibbs, baptized July 25, 1780.
 Sarah Gibbs, }

Who was this James Gibbs? Mrs. Channing told George Gibbs, Fourth, that she had a cousin in Newport in her childhood whom she called Cousin James, but no connection can be traced now.

We find the following record of marriage:—

1719. April 16. William Gardiner to Elizabeth Gibbs.

Who was this Elizabeth Gibbs?

A daughter of John Gibbs, of Providence, married Henry Moore, of Newport, and had issue. The Providence family, so far as known, were not related to the Bristol family of Gibbs.

Finally, we have the following:—

1754/5. Feb. 27. Gibbs Gibbs to Elizabeth Gibbs.

Who were these?

BRISTOL TOWN RECORDS. COPIED BY PETER GLADDING, TOWN CLERK,
 OCTOBER, 1847.

John Gibbs, son of John and Sarah, his wife, was born Oct. 20, 1751. Sabbath Day. Record, page 8, Book 2 of Births.

Capt. James Gibbs' son Nathaniel drowned May 31, 1756, aged 7 years. Record, page 2, Book 2 of Deaths.

Mrs. Sarah Gibbs died Oct. 8, 1756, aged 82 years. Page 2.

Capt. James Gibbs, commander of sloop Little, bound for Surinam, July 28, 1746. Record, page —, Book No. 1.

Elizabeth Gibbs, daughter of John Gibbs and Sarah, his wife, was born Oct. 12, 1781. Record, Book No. 1.

Mary Gibbs, daughter of John Gibbs and Sarah, his wife, was born Oct. 21, 1752. Record, Book No. 2.

Mrs. Sarah Gibbs, wife of Mr. John Gibbs, departed this life the twenty— day of April, 1746. Record No. 2.

Feb. 9, 1750. Simon Tilley, now resident of this town, entered his intention of marriage with Ann Gibbs, of Newport, R. I. Record No. 2, page 15.

The intention of marriage between James Fowler, of Newport, and Jane Gibbs, of this town, was entered April 1, 1727. Record No. 2, page 27.

John Gibbs entered his intention of marriage with Sarah Jones Sept. 18, 1729. No. 2, page 81.

James Gibbs entered his intention of marriage with Martha Giddins on ye 4th day of April, 1735. No. 2, page 87.

John Gibbs and Sarah Jones were joined together in matrimony Oct. 19, 1729. Record No. 2, page 89.

James Gibbs and Martha Giddens were joined together in matrimony July 25, 1735. Record No. 2, page 59.

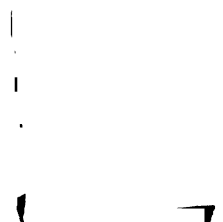
The intention of marriage between Mr. James Gibbs and Mrs. Mary Ingraham, both of Bristol, was entered April 29, 1742. Record No. 2, page 58.

James Gibbs and Mary Ingraham were married May 13, 1742. No. 2, page 54.

WMS



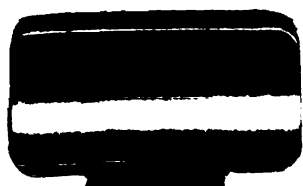
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